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# QUITO & SURROUNDINGS

## 6D | 5N

### FEATURED INFORMATION

- Quito, located at the foot of the Pichincha volcano, is known for its delightful climate, reminiscent of an eternal spring, and for the beauty of its well-preserved colonial center. Due to the city's historical and architectural significance, UNESCO declared Quito a Cultural Heritage of Humanity site in 1978. The city is situated in an Andean valley at 2,800 meters above sea level, making it the second-highest capital in the world.





# Descripción

## DAY 1 - (-/-/-)

### Welcome to Quito!

Upon arrival in Quito, you will be greeted by your guide and transferred to your hotel.

## DAY 2 - (B/L/-)

### QUITO (FULL DAY)

After breakfast, we will head to the north of Quito to visit the “Middle of the World,” where we can stand with one foot in each hemisphere and learn from the many fascinating exhibits at the Intiñan Museum. This site is located directly on the equatorial line and features displays on Ecuador’s pre-Columbian life, astronomy, geography, physics, and the unique phenomena occurring at the equator.

Next, we will take the Quito Cable Car (Teleférico)—one of the city’s top attractions, offering spectacular panoramic views. The ride lasts only 10 minutes but takes us to an altitude of 4,050 meters. At the top, the viewpoint offers an incredible view of Quito, its valleys, and the surrounding snow-capped volcanoes. (There is a café where you can enjoy a snack, as well as a first-aid station in case of emergency.) Bring a sweater or jacket, as the weather at this altitude can change quickly.

The landmarks we will visit highlight why UNESCO named Quito the first World Heritage Site. We will marvel at the architecture and rich decorations of San Francisco Church and its religious art museum, the stunning Church of La Compañía, adorned with seven tons of gold, and the bustling Independence Square, flanked by the Presidential Palace and Quito’s Cathedral.







With its exquisite artistic treasures, intricate wood carvings, and flower-filled balconies, the historic center is the soul and crown jewel of Quito.

### **DAY 3 - (B/L/-)**

#### **COTOPAXI (FULL DAY)**

This morning, we will depart for Cotopaxi National Park, traveling along what German scientist Alexander von Humboldt called the Avenue of the Volcanoes. Humboldt visited Ecuador in the 18th century, collecting valuable biological and geographical data on the region.

The Cotopaxi Volcano, standing at 5,896 meters, gives its name to the surrounding national park. Its perfect cone shape dominates the landscape and never fails to impress. It is also one of the highest active volcanoes in the world. Within the park, we can take a walk around Limpiopungo Lagoon or visit the pre-Inca ruins of El Salitre. If we are lucky, we may spot wild horses or even an Andean condor, an endangered species.

Lunch will be at La Ciénega, a historic hacienda with over 400 years of history, which has hosted presidents, dignitaries, and explorers, including Alexander von Humboldt. The menu includes both local and international dishes prepared with the freshest ingredients—a true delight for the palate.

Return to Quito in the afternoon.

### **DAY 4 - (B/L/-)**

#### **MINDO (FULL DAY)**

We will head west to the slopes of the Pichincha volcano to admire one of the world's most biodiverse ecosystems.



In many ways, the cloud forest resembles a tropical rainforest, but due to its rugged terrain, more sunlight reaches the forest floor, resulting in an incredibly rich variety of endemic flora and fauna. This ecosystem is home to some of the highest bird and plant diversity in the world. Notable bird species include the Andean Cock-of-the-Rock, hummingbirds, tanagers, mountain toucans, cotingas, and manakins.

The slopes of Pichincha Volcano range from 1,400m to 4,780m and include the Mindo-Nambillo Protected Forest. The most spectacular flora includes hundreds of varieties of orchids and bromeliads, as well as numerous waterfalls and streams. Lunch at a local restaurant, then return to Quito in the afternoon.

#### **DAY 5 - (B/L/-)**

##### **OTAVALO (FULL DAY)**

We will travel north of Quito through stunning mountain landscapes dotted with small villages, white churches, and blue lagoons. Our first stop will be at Guachalá and the Quitsato Sundial, located about 70 kilometers from Quito. Here, we will find a Middle of the World monument, featuring a giant sundial.

From Quitsato, we will continue further north to Otavalo, a small town of approximately 50,000 residents, known for its warm and welcoming people and its world-famous market. This market has been held here since pre-Inca times.

The Otavaleños are the most prosperous indigenous group in Ecuador, largely due to their mastery of textiles. Their woven goods, carpets, ponchos, indigenous jewelry, and beautiful textiles are highly sought after worldwide.







We will also visit the colorful fruit and vegetable market, where you can see a wide variety of Ecuadorian produce.

After lunch at a local restaurant, we will stop in the village of Peguche to visit the workshop of a local artisan who crafts musical instruments. Later, we will take a short walk to the beautiful Peguche Waterfall.

Return to Quito in the afternoon.

DAY 6 - (B/L/-)

PAPALLACTA (HOT SPRINGS)

Breakfast.

We will travel to the Papallacta Hot Springs, where you will awaken your senses and experience a rejuvenating visit to Ecuador's best spa. Set in a magical and natural environment, this retreat offers high-quality treatments combined with the therapeutic benefits of thermal waters. Enjoy the circuit of pools with varying temperatures.

Lunch and transfer to Quito International Airport for your departure flight.



## RATE IN USD PER PERSON IN STANDARD DOUBLE ACCOMMODATION

PAX	2 - 3 PAX	4 - 5 PAX	6 - 9 PAX	10 - 14 PAX	15 PAX
<b>3* HOTEL RATE PER PERSON IN STANDARD DOUBLE ACCOMMODATION</b>	\$1293.00	\$1021.00	\$883.00	\$850.00	\$751.00
<b>**SUPPL. SGL ROOM</b>	\$206.00				
<b>3* SUPERIOR RATE PER PERSON IN STANDARD DOUBLE ACCOMMODATION</b>	\$1393.00	\$1121.00	\$983.00	\$965.00	\$862.00
<b>**SUPPL. SGL ROOM</b>	\$265.00				
<b>5* HOTEL RATE PER PERSON IN STANDARD DOUBLE ACCOMMODATION</b>	\$1730.00	\$1458.00	\$1351.00	\$1351.00	\$1231.00
<b>**SUPPL. SGL ROOM</b>	\$315.00				

**INCLUSIONS:**

- Airport-hotel-airport transfers.
- Daily breakfast at the hotel.
- Meals as detailed in assigned restaurants (5 breakfasts + 5 lunches). Lunch menu includes (starter or dessert + main course + soft drink).
- Accommodation in selected hotels.
- Daily assistance and support.
- Entrance fees to museums and attractions specified in the itinerary.
- Air-conditioned ground transportation.
- Certified national tour guide.

**EXCLUSIONS:**

- International and domestic flights.
- Additional soft drinks and alcoholic beverages.
- Personal expenses.



## **NOTES:**

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- This tour includes walks at an altitude of 2,800 meters (9,200 feet) and climbing stairs.
- Church visits on Sundays are not allowed.
- Altitude: between 2,800 and 4,000 meters.
- Average daytime temperature: 8°C to 20°C (46°F to 68°F).

## **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

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- Dress in layers (t-shirt, blouse, sweater, coat).
- Warm clothing for high-altitude areas, such as jackets and sweaters.
- Comfortable and sturdy footwear, especially for hiking or outdoor activities.
- Rain protection, especially for the afternoon.
- Sunscreen.
- Good walking shoes.
- Opportunities for shopping souvenirs and local handicrafts.
- Camera.
- Sunglasses.
- Ecuador uses Type A and B plugs, so a universal adapter is useful if you need to charge electronic devices.



# HOTELS

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## QUITO:

- 3\* Rio Amazonas Hotel or similar



- 3\* Superior Ibis Hotel or similar



- 5\* Go Quito Hotel or similar

